



**Health Services**  
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

**Los Angeles County  
Board of Supervisors**

September 19, 2008

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TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: John F. Schunhoff, Ph.D.   
Interim Director

SUBJECT: **ADVANCE NOTIFICATION OF SOLE SOURCE  
AGREEMENT NEGOTIATIONS WITH  
UNIVERSITY HEALTHSYSTEM CONSORTIUM**

**John F. Schunhoff, Ph.D.**  
Interim Director

**Robert G. Splawn, M.D.**  
Interim Chief Medical Officer

This is to advise you that the Department of Health Services (DHS) intends to enter into sole source negotiations in two weeks time with University HealthSystem Consortium (UHC) for continued access to the Patient Safety Net (PSN) system. Board policy requires written notice of a department's intent to enter into sole source negotiations for agreements over \$250,000.

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*To improve health  
through leadership,  
service and education.*

DHS has maintained membership in the UHC, a not-for-profit member alliance of approximately 68 academic health centers, and its group purchasing organization, Novation, since 1997. UCH collects performance and benchmarking data and offers a variety of data analysis, comparisons, and reports to its member organizations. On November 8, 2005, your Board approved Agreement number H-701781 with UHC for access to the PSN which is a secure web-based event reporting system that also aggregates and analyzes data for its participants. DHS uses PSN to register and document adverse incidents, "near misses", and unsafe conditions that involve patients and visitors. The PSN system provides immediate notice of all reported adverse events and unsafe conditions to DHS management for review, follow-up, and the implementation of appropriate corrective action. A key benefit of PSN is that it enables DHS to compare data with aggregated summaries from other participating organizations for benchmarking and identifying areas of concern. The current Agreement expires December 31, 2008.

UHC specifically developed the PSN for use by its members as an event-reporting system and access to aggregated member data and related analyses is not available from any other entity. Continued DHS access to the PSN will provide ongoing identification and management of patient, visitor and staff safety issues and will ensure DHS complies with the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organization's 2004 National Patient Safety Goals.



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DHS will proceed with the sole source negotiations with UHC unless our office is instructed otherwise by your Board within two weeks from the date of this notice. If you have any questions or need additional information, please let me know or your staff may contact Laura Sarff, Director, Quality Improvement and Patient Safety at (213) 240-8283.

JFS:sg

c: Chief Executive Officer  
County Counsel  
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors  
Interim Chief Information Officer